

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5023
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OES/SCI - PACKER

DEPT PASS NSF/OIP FOR UZNANSKI

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, IT, UK, US

SUBJ: PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR TRANSATLANTIC
BALLOON FACILITY

1. PROFESSOR SCANDONE, DIRECTOR OF SPACE RESEARCH FOR CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE (CNR) AND HIS COLLEAGUE DR. MARIO MALAVASI PRESENTED TO SCIATT A DRAFT COPY OF A PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL (U.K.), CNR (ITALY) AND NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) OF U.S. FOR A TRANSATLANTIC BALLOON FACILITY TO SERVICE OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS OF 21 BALLOONS WITH APPROXIMATELY 1800 KILOGRAM PAYLOADS.

2. THEY WILL BE LAUNCHED DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 1 - AUGUST 31 OF EACH YEAR FROM TRAPANI-MILO, SCILY TO FLOAT IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION AT AN ALTITUDE OF 140,000 FT. ACROSS SPAIN, PORTUGAL, THE ATLANTIC OCEAN AND THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE U.S. AT ABOUT 380 NORTH LATITUDE AND WILL BE REMOTELY CONTROLLED TO LAND WITHIN THE U.S. BETWEEN FOUR TO EIGHT DAYS AFTER LAUNCH.

3. LAST YEAR PERMISSION WAS REQUESTED TO OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL ONLY (AND OBTAINED) FOR OVERFLIGHTS SINCE OTHER COUNTRIES WERE NOT ON THE SCHEDULED ROUTE. HOWEVER, THIS YEAR IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT CNR WILL APPLY TO THOSE COUNTRIES IN NORTH
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AFRICA FOR WHICH MARGINAL OVERFLIGHTS COULD OCCUR UNDER CERTAIN

WIND CONDITIONS. NO DIFFICULTY IS ANTICIPATED IN RECEIVING APPROVAL.

COMMENT: BECAUSE THE PROPOSED LAUNCHING PERIOD COMMENCES ON JUNE 1 AN EARLY EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED MEMORANDUM WOULD BE APPRECIATED. EMBASSY POUCHING TODAY COPY MOU TO OES/SCI FOR PACKER (REGISTRATION #950662) AND NSF/OIP FOR UZNANSKI (REGISTRATION #950663).VOLPE

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